

Telephone Interview

A telephone interview was conducted on December 11, 2002 between the undersigned and Examiner Nghiem. The rejection of Claims 1, 17 and 30 under Section 102 based on the Nguyen reference was discussed. Further to the telephone interview, applicants submitted a proposed amendment, to clarify that it is the service module that is referenced as being in an un-worn condition, not the printer in an un-used state. The Examiner indicated that these amendments appeared to result in allowance of the rejected claims over the art of record in the case, and that if a supplemental search did not disclose any additional art, the amendment would be entered. If the supplemental search disclosed further art, the amendment would not be entered. In the advisory action mailed December 23, 2002, the Examiner cited U.S. 6,042,216 (Garcia et al.) and refused entry of the December 11th amendment.

Garcia et al. discloses a service module having wipers 234 and cap 238. The advisory action stated that "Garcia et al. discloses a first (236) and second (234) service modules for servicing a printhead (FIG. 14a), both are required to adequately service the printhead. The first service module (236) in an unworn condition does not adequately address the printhead by itself."

The amendments set out above to Claims 1, 17 and 30 introduce the same amendments which were not entered pursuant to the December 23rd advisory action, and further that the second (or special) service module is removably installable on the printer and with respect to the first (or standard) service module. Garcia et al. does not disclose this feature, since the wipers 234 and cap 238 are mounted together on the service module 230; element 236 is not removably installable with respect to element 234.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration and allowance of the applications is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead with a nozzle plate and a first service module removably installed on the printer, comprising:

identifying a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by servicing the printer with the first service module being in an [un-used] un-worn condition;

providing a second service module with a service function different from the first service module and adapted to address said printhead-related service condition, the second service module removably installable on the printer and with respect to the first service module.

17. (Twice Amended) A method for servicing an inkjet printer including an inkjet printhead and a removable first service module, comprising:

providing a second service module different from the first service module and adapted to address a printhead-related service condition not adequately addressed by the first service module being in an [unused] un-worn condition, the second service module removably installable on the printer and with respect to the first service module; and

installing the second service module in the printer;

conducting a printhead-related service operation using the second service module.

30. (Twice Amended) A special service module for use in an inkjet printing system including an inkjet printhead and a standard service module removably installed in the printing system, the special service module configured to be removably installed in the printing system in place of the standard service module to perform a special service function on the printhead which is not performed by the standard service module being in an [unused] un-worn condition, the special service module removably installable on the printer and with respect to the standard service module.